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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,947	10/18/2001	Louis A. Tartaglia	MPI1998-021DV3	6746
7590	09/17/2004		EXAMINER	
MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 75 Sidney Street Cambridge, MA 02139			MCGARRY, SEAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1635	
DATE MAILED: 09/17/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/981,947	TARTAGLIA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sean R McGarry	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20,21,24 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 24 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

It is noted that the claim set filed 6/29/04 indicates that claims 1-20 are canceled. This is not accurate. It is clear from the prosecution history that claim 20 is pending, has been examined and has been amended in the response filed 6/29/04. Further claim submissions should correct this error in claim status to indicate claims 1-19 as cancelled.

Claims 20, 21, 24, and 32 are pending and under examination.

Claims 20 and 21 are allowed.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 32 recites on line 2, "wherein the gene sequence comprises a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of. . ." This language is unclear since it is not clear, for example how an amino acid sequence could encode an amino acid sequence. Nucleic acids encode amino acid sequences, for example. The deletion of the words "encoding an amino acid sequence" on line 2 would be remedial.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a written description rejection.

The specification discloses SEQ ID NO: 1, which corresponds to the cDNA species of the GLUTX protein. The claimed invention is drawn to methods treating disease via the modulation (inhibition or increase) of expression of a GLUTX gene defined by SEQ ID NO:1, anucleic acid that encodes SEQ ID NO: 2. The invention requires the use of an antisense or ribozyme that hybridizes to the aforementioned nucleic acids under recited conditions of hybridization. While the target gene may be limited in scope, the range of antisense and ribozymes that may hybridize to a specific GLUTX nucleic acid where the function of inhibition is observed have not been adequately described. The specification does not disclose any particular species of antisense or ribozyme molecules that inhibit the specified GLUTX in cells or tissues. The design of antisense molecules that inhibit a particular target under any particular conditions such as cellular or tissue requires more than just a disclosure of a target sequence. The secondary structure of the target and other variables in the environment for inhibition also affect the selected structure for inhibition of a specified target nucleic acid. The specification does not provide, for example a specific structure that would impart the function of inhibition of a specified target. The prior art does not provide a

known correlation between any particular structure and the inhibition of a specified target via antisense/ribozymes. The selection of antisense or ribozymes is an empirical process where there is no specific structure that one in the art would know would impart the property of inhibiting a particular target.

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111, makes clear that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of *the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the 'written description' inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*." (See page 1117.) The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed." (See Vas-Cath at page 1116.)

The specification does not provide the structure for any particular antisense or ribozyme inhibitor of GLUTX expression and further does not provide any structure that would allow one in the art to identify a genus of inhibitors that would have the function of inhibiting or actuating GLUTX expression, for example. The skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the encompassed antisense or ribozymes for use in the claimed method. The specification provides methods to screen for antisense or ribozymes for use in the claimed methods but does not provide any particular structure for any antisense or ribozyme that will inhibit GLUTX in cells or tissues. The disclosure of a method to isolate is not a substitute for the disclosure of the compounds regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation.

Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method for isolating it. The nucleic acid

itself is required. See Fiers v. Revel, 25 USPQ2d 1601, 1606 (CAFC 1993) and Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., 18 USPQ2d 1016. In Fiddes v. Baird, 30 USPQ2d 1481, 1483, claims directed to mammalian FGF's were found unpatentable due to lack of written description for the broad class. The specification provided only the bovine sequence.

Finally, University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1404, 1405 held that:

...To fulfill the written description requirement, a patent specification must describe an invention and do so in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can clearly conclude that "the inventor invented the claimed invention." *Lockwood v. American Airlines, Inc.* , 107 F.3d 1565, 1572, 41 USPQ2d 1961, 1966 (1997); *In re Gosteli* , 872 F.2d 1008, 1012, 10 USPQ2d 1614, 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1989) ("[T]he description must clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [the inventor] invented what is claimed."). Thus, an applicant complies with the written description requirement "by describing the invention, with all its claimed limitations, not that which makes it obvious," and by using "such descriptive means as words, structures, figures, diagrams, formulas, etc., that set forth the claimed invention." *Lockwood*, 107 F.3d at 1572, 41 USPQ2d at 1966.

An adequate written description of a DNA, such as the cDNA of the recombinant plasmids and microorganisms of the '525 patent, "requires a precise definition,

such as by structure, formula, chemical name, or physical properties," not a mere wish or plan for obtaining the claimed chemical invention. *Fiers v. Revel*, 984 F.2d 1164, 1171, 25 USPQ2d 1601, 1606 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Accordingly, "an adequate written description of a DNA requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method for isolating it; what is required is a description of the DNA itself." Id. at 1170, 25 USPQ2d at 1606.

The name cDNA is not itself a written description of that DNA; it conveys no distinguishing information concerning its identity. While the example provides a process for obtaining human insulin-encoding cDNA, there is no further information in the patent pertaining to that cDNA's relevant structural or physical characteristics; in other words, it thus does not describe human insulin cDNA. Describing a method of preparing a cDNA or even describing the protein that the cDNA encodes, as the example does, does not necessarily describe the cDNA itself. No sequence information indicating which nucleotides constitute human cDNA appears in the patent, as appears for rat cDNA in Example 5 of the patent. Accordingly, the specification does not provide a written description of the invention of claim 5.

The invention of claim 24 is essentially drawn to the practice of a method of treating a disease with a compound that has been described only in terms of its

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function, and where the only means provided for finding the compounds is essentially a trial and error process.

The specification fails to describe the genus of GLUTX antisense and ribozymes that would function in the claimed method. There has been no disclosure of functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure and the specification fails to provide adequate numbers of species that one in the art would accept as indicative of a representative of a genus. At best the specification indicates that one in the art should run tests on a wide spectrum of compounds in the hope that one of the screened compound will work in the instant method of treatment

Therefore the claimed invention fails to meet the written description provision of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Applicant's arguments filed 6/29/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant essentially argues that the specification provides an adequate written description of the invention at pages 36-43 of the specification. The disclosure at this cite is essentially guidance on how to make and screen for antisense or ribozymes where there is no disclosure of any particular structure responsible for the required function. There is no disclosure of any species of the compounds required for the practice of the claimed inventions. Applicant's arguments are addressed in the body of the rejection above.

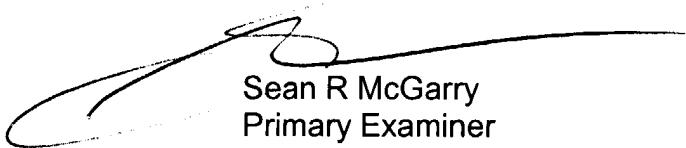
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean R McGarry whose telephone number is (571) 272-0761. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John LeGuyader can be reached on (571) 272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sean R McGarry
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1635

SRM